

Budongo Trail Primate Enclosure Edinburgh Zoo



The Budongo Trail is a new £6m chimpanzee enclosure and visitor experience for Edinburgh Zoo. It involved the design and construction of an enclosure that merges science, the natural habitat and a new world class visitor experience.

The new 1400m² facility houses a population of up to 50 chimpanzees and features three interlinked living 'pods', a 200 seat auditorium providing AV footage of the project, interactive public mall, cognitive research laboratory shared by Scotland's major Universities and a significant external play area.

The pods are linked by bridges and tunnels which are also connected to an external enclosure. Each pod has varying degrees of temperature, light and humidity that represent different aspects of the chimpanzee's natural habitat.

An interpretation space is used to explain the conservation programme, where close ties are held to the RZSS sponsored chimpanzee research and protection project in the Budongo rainforest, Uganda.

The enclosure replaces the original chimpanzee house and forms the entry to Edinburgh Zoo's tropical forest biome.

It was officially opened to the public in April 2008.